

**City of Morgantown**  
430 Spruce Street, Morgantown, WV 26505

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**June 6, 2023**

**Regular Meeting: June 6, 2023:** The regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Morgantown was held in the Monongalia County Commission Chambers on Tuesday, June 6, 2023, at 7:24 pm.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Selin.

**Moment of Silence for Morgantown Police Officer First Class Zane Breakiron**

Chief Powell gave a statement about the kind of person Zane was and what he meant to everyone. He always had a smile on his face no matter where he was or what he was doing. It has been very hard getting through the days at the police department with mourning his loss.

**Present:** City Manager Kim Haws, Assistant City Manager Emily Muzzarelli, City Clerk Christine Wade, Mayor Jenny Selin, Deputy Mayor Danielle Trumble, and Council Members Joe Abu-Ghannam, Bill Kawecki, Dave Harshbarger and Brian Butcher. City Attorney Ryan Simonton was absent.

**Approval of Minutes:** May 1, 2023, Canvassing Meeting minutes; May 2, 2023, Regular Meeting minutes; May 16, 2023, Regular Meeting minutes; May 30, 2023, Special Meeting minutes; May 30, 2023, was approved as presented by acclamation.

**Correspondence:**

Mayor Selin mentioned upcoming Council Meeting Dates that have been updated due to Holiday's:

- City Council Meeting - Wednesday, June 21, 2023
- No June Committee of the Whole Meeting
- City Council Meeting - Wednesday, July 5, 2023
- City Council Meeting - Wednesday, July 19, 2023
- Committee of the Whole - Tuesday, July 25, 2023
- There will not be an August 1, 2023, Regular City Council Meeting.
- City Council Meeting - Tuesday, August 15, 2023
- City Council Meeting - Tuesday, August 29, 2023, Regular Meeting. There will be a Regular Meeting instead of a Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Mayor Selin presented to LGBRQIA Liaison Ash Orr and Human Rights Commission Chair Annie Cronan Yorick, a proclamation, proclaiming June 2023, as LGBTQIA+ Pride Month.

**Public Hearing:** None

**Unfinished Business:** None

**Boards & Commissions:**

Motion by Councilor Butcher, second by Councilor Abu-Ghannam, to reappoint, by consensus, Annie Cronan Yorick to the Human Rights Commission for another two-year term. Term will be July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2025.

Motion by Deputy Mayor Trumble, second by Councilor Harshbarger, to appoint, by consensus, Meridith Balas to the BOPARC Commission and will be taking over a vacant six-year term. Term will be July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2025.

Motion by Councilor Harshbarger, second by Deputy Mayor Trumble, to reappoint, by consensus, Alexandria Svolos to the Library Board of Directors for a five-year term. Term will be July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2028.

Motion by Councilor Kawecki, second by Councilor Abu-Ghannam, to appoint, by consensus, Jonathan Cook to the Transit Authority Board of Directors and will be taking over a vacant three-year term. Term will be January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2023.

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Motion by Councilor Kawecki, second by Councilor Butcher, to appoint, by consensus, Blake Caldwell to the Housing Advisory Commission as the City Resident Representative and will be taking over a vacant three-year term. Term will be November 1, 2020 – October 31, 2023.

Motion by Councilor Abu-Ghannam, second by Councilor Harshbarger, to appoint, by consensus, Lyndasia Jones to the Sister Cities Commission and will be taking over a vacant two-year/three-year term. Term will be June 1, 2021 – July 1, 2024.

## **Public Portion:**

Mayor Selin declared the Public Portion open.

Lucien Lewin, he is the apartment owner of the building behind Health Right and stated the difficulties with the atmosphere on Wall Street and the downtown area.

Jonathan Lewin thanked those involved with closing the open area between the Library and City Hall, along with behind the Aull Center to the Morgantown Public Library with fencing to keep those that hang out downtown from getting in there and trashing the area. He thanked the downtown Ambassadors for all that they do for the community. He spoke about the rodents behind Health Right in the trash receptacle and how they are chewing holes through the plastic lining. He also spoke about those that are laying and sleeping on the streets near Health Right along with other businesses downtown. He mentioned the sewer system and that there are some areas that need to be repaired.

Ash Orr spoke about Pride Month.

There being no other individuals to speak, Mayor Selin declared the public portion closed.

**Special Committee Reports:** None

## **Consent Agenda:**

Consideration of APPROVAL of (First Reading) of An Ordinance Authorizing a Lease Agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration at the Morgantown Municipal Airport

Consideration of APPROVAL of (First Reading) of An Ordinance Authorizing a Lease Agreement with ACME Land Holdings, LLC at the Morgantown Municipal Airport

Consideration of APPROVAL of (First Reading) of An Ordinance Authorizing a Lease Agreement with Met Billiards, LLC at the Metropolitan Theatre

Motion by Councilor Kawecki, second by Councilor Harshbarger, to approve the above-entitled Ordinances to second reading. Motion carried 6-0.

## **New Business:**

**An Ordinance Amending Article 1718 Entitled:** The entitled Ordinance below was presented for first reading.

An Ordinance Amending Article 1718 Entitled “Vacant Structure Code”

Development Services Director Rickie Yeager explained. After discussion, motion by Councilor Kawecki, second by Councilor Harshbarger, to approve the above-entitled Ordinance to second reading. Motion carried 6-0.

**An Ordinance Adopting the Fee Schedule:** The entitled Ordinance below was presented for first reading.

An Ordinance Adopting the Fee Schedule of the City of Morgantown

Development Services Director Rickie Yeager explained. After discussion, motion by Councilor Kawecki, second by Councilor Harshbarger, to approve the above-entitled Ordinance to second reading. Motion carried 6-0.

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**An Ordinance Authorizing a Real Estate Purchase Agreement:** The entitled Ordinance below was presented for first reading.

An Ordinance Authorizing a Real Estate Purchase Agreement with James L. Laurita, Sr. Family Limited Partnership

Director of Morgantown Municipal Airport Jon Vrabel explained. After discussion, motion by Councilor Harshbarger, second by Councilor Kawecki, to approve the above-entitled Ordinance to second reading. Motion carried 6-0.

**Bid Call 2023-08 TSA Checkpoint Reconfiguration:** The Bid Call was presented for approval.

Morgantown Municipal Airport Director Jon Vrabel explained. Motion by Councilor Abu-Ghannam, second by Councilor Harshbarger, to approve the above-entitled Bid Call 2023-08 TSA Checkpoint Reconfiguration to Lombardi Development Company in the amount of \$199,300.00. Motion carried 6-0.

**A Resolution Authorizing Application for a Grant for a Connector Bridge at Eastern Avenue and Flagel Street:** The above-entitled Resolution was presented for approval.

Assistant City Manager Emily Muzzarelli explained. After discussion, motion by Councilor Butcher, second by Councilor Kawecki, to approve the above-entitled Resolution. Motion carried 6-0.

**BID Award for New Elevator at City Hall:** The BID Award was presented for approval.

City Manager Kim Haws explained. After discussion, motion by Councilor Kawecki, second by Councilor Harshbarger, to approve the above-entitled BID Award to VanNostrand Architects PLLC, in the amount of \$129,8000.00. Motion carried 6-0.

**City Manager's Report:** wanted to update council on a few items. He requested a report from Chief Powell on the terms of the use utilization of the new Training Facility. He noted that the contract has been completed and reviewed and will be ready for distribution to the entities to come in and utilize the facilities. He stated that it took some major work to get to this point. He will forward the contract to city council once he receives it. He mentioned Main Street Morgantown and how the downtown is starting to look. With increased foot patrols downtown daily by the Morgantown Police Department and hiring a fourth Ambassador along with Main Street's help in bringing back downtown to what it used to be. He has heard from many members of the community and by phone about the trash receptacles that were distributed to those within the city. He mentioned that there will be a meeting scheduled with Republic Services to see if they can work out some of the issues. After the meeting with Republic Services, he will be in touch with city council about what is or will be happening in the future.

**Report from City Clerk:** announced that the Police Civil Service Commission will be holding an entry-level test on Saturday, June 17, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. She mentioned that we have about 20 applications so far and hopes they have a great turnout. She also mentioned that if you want to apply, you can just contact the City Clerk's office or through the city's website. She noted that Officer Zane Breakiron, who passed away, was a big part of the entry-level testing and also was a good advocate for the police department.

**Report from City Attorney:** Absent

**Report from Council Members:**

**Councilor Butcher:** Expressed his condolences to Officer Zane Breakiron and his family. He thanked all those that helped clean up the overgrown rain garden at Turtle Park and make it into a new pollinator garden. He noted that there will be a dedication in July and invited all to attend. He announced the following: June 20, 2023, 4pm – 8pm Boston Beanery will be holding a Fundraiser for the Sizemore Family who lost everything in a house fire last month. Half of the proceeds will go to the family, so if you would like to attend, it would be greatly appreciated. June 23, 2023, 6pm, the Morgantown Pride Parade will be going down High Street from Willey to Pleasant, where immediately following, there will be a concert. June 24, 2023, Noon – 5pm, there will be a Block Party at Hazel Ruby McQuain Amphitheater followed by a Gay Garden Party at Apothecary. Some of the proceeds will go towards Project Rainbow. Immediately following the Garden party there is another event happening at Vice Versa. Hellbender Fest will be going on at Mountain State Brewing. He mentioned a card is being created for those attending all the events that will put you into a raffle to allow everyone to mingle at all the events.

**Councilor Harshbarger:** he thanked the city for matching the grant awarded to the Mon River Trail Conservancy for the lights to be installed on the trail from the Marriott to Hazel Ruby McQuain Amphitheater. He mentioned a grant that was awarded for paving the

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Rail Trail from the Arboretum to Star City where the pavement ends that will be starting late summer. He noted that beginning Wednesday, June 7, 2023, for about a week during business hours the trail will be closed from the Star City Restrooms moving towards the Arboretum to put in culverts for drainage which is part of the paving project that will be happening later in the summer. He also noted that from June 7<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, the trail will be closed at times in those areas due to the project of installing culverts for drainage. He mentioned that Morgantown Utility Board held a Special Meeting regarding the Cheat Lake Service District. They have asked MUB to go into a service & operation agreement together. He also mentioned Westover and what will be happening in the near future.

**Deputy Mayor Trumble:** she mentioned that she has received a lot of trash complaints about the bins that Republic Services is providing. She has also received complaints about trash not being picked up. She has passed that information on to Carl Allen who talks with Republic Services on a daily basis. She has been receiving traffic and parking complaints in Woodburn and has been trying to get in contact with the Engineering Department. She will follow up this coming week to get in touch with them. She announced all the events that will be happening in Morgantown from today to the next council meeting: June 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. she will be helping host a clean-up with Main Street Morgantown at Hazel Ruby McQuain Park; June 10<sup>th</sup>, 10am Woodburn rescheduled Adopt a Street clean up at Whitmore Park, same day Arts Walk & Moonlight Market downtown; June 13<sup>th</sup>, Pop up Plaza 11am – 2pm Courthouse Square; June 14<sup>th</sup> BOPARC Sounds of Summer Concert at Krepps Park, along with Main Street holding a Cruising the Evening downtown; June 17<sup>th</sup>, Greenmont is hosting a clean-up, along with West Virginia's Birthday Party downtown; June 20<sup>th</sup>, Mountaineer Community Resources will be hosting a community open house at Hazel's House of Hope from 10am – 2pm.

**Councilor Kaweck:** he has heard complaints about the trash bins is very sympathetic the way the city is taking it, and is not unimpressed with what Republic Services has done and is currently doing, they are making an effort, and he appreciates it. He thinks that the bins they have delivered has solved a great many of the problems, while creating many more. He mentioned that a house in South Park has 4 recycle bins and no trash can. He would like to see this come into a controllable situation. He stated that the situation is falling through the responsibility of the city to come to some sort of solution with the appropriate people at Republic Services. He noted that the Neighborhood Associations are up and running and are planning their block parties, Greenmont has planned one for June 24<sup>th</sup>, South Park Association of Neighbors will be having Yoga in the Park, at Eaton Park of the corner of Park & Morris Street on Saturday's. He stated that it is great to see that kind of activity and commitment. He mentioned that there are other communities volunteering for not only clean-up, but to do some maintenance on some of the public properties. He encourages that and is happy to see the activity even when Main Street is taking care of their own buildings and helping out.

**Councilor Abu-Ghannam:** he has also received a lot of complaints about Republic Services and the size of the trash bins that was provided by them. He stated that he watched back on one of the council meetings from where Republic Services presented the services offered to the city and one of the questions that was asked was, "if there was a possibility of a smaller trash bin", if they could have that and the response given was, "We have a lot of accommodations for a number of residents throughout the city", so he stated that it was a promise from Republic Services that the city was given. He hopes that they will uphold their end of that statement, especially with residents over the age of 65 who have requested them, but have not been accommodating to them. He had called Republic Services himself and was told that a reasoning would need to be provided by her doctor to receive a smaller trash bin. He was disappointed when they sent him a letter requesting a doctor's note with a medical reason. He felt that was none of Republic Services business to be asking her for a doctor to be involved. He loved the first Concert Series down at Hazel Ruby McQuain Park and was fantastic. He noted that First Ward Neighborhood Association will be holding their neighborhood yard sale on June 17<sup>th</sup>, from 8am – 2pm. The next neighborhood meeting will be held on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 6pm at Jack Roberts Park. He welcomed everyone to summer break.

**Mayor Selin:** she enjoyed helping clean-up Turtle Park and providing a new pollinator and fairy garden. She stated that there was nothing purchased, everything was donated. Suncrest neighborhood had received permission to shut down a part of Parkview Drive to host a block party. She appreciates all the new totes that have been provided by Republic Services, but there have been a lot of complaints she has received.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, motion by Councilor Butcher, second by Deputy Mayor Trumble, to adjourn the meeting. Time: 8:57p.m.

  
City Clerk

  
Mayor